Claims

1. A method of treating anxiety disorders or symptoms comprising administering a therapeutic amount of a diazepam condensation aerosol, having an MMAD less than 3 μm and less than 5% diazepam degradation products, to a patient by inhalation, upon activation by the patient of the formation of, and delivery of, the condensation aerosol.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said condensation aerosol is formed by

a. volatilizing diazepam under conditions effective to produce a heated vapor of the diazepam; and

b. condensing the heated vapor of the diazepam to form condensation aerosol particles.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the condensation aerosol is formed at a rate greater than 0.5 mg/second.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said therapeutic amount of diazepam condensation aerosol comprises between 0.2 mg and 20 mg of diazepam delivered in a single inspiration.

5. The method according to claim 2, wherein said administration results in a peak plasma concentration of said diazepam in less than 0.1 hours.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least 50% by weight of the condensation aerosol is amorphous in form.

7. A method of administering diazepam to a patient to achieve a peak plasma drug concentration rapidly, comprising administering to the patient by inhalation an aerosol of diazepam having less than 5% diazepam products and an MMAD less than 3 microns wherein the peak plasma drug concentration is achieved in less than 0.1 hours.

8. A kit for delivering a drug aerosol comprising:

a) a thin coating of a diazepam composition, and

b) a device for dispensing said thin coating as a condensation aerosol.

9. The kit of claim 8, wherein the device for dispensing said coating as a condensation aerosol comprises:

(a) a flow through enclosure,

(b) contained within the enclosure, a metal substrate with a foil-like surface and having a thin coating of a diazepam composition formed on the substrate surface,

(c) a power source that can be activated to heat the substrate to a temperature effective to volatilize the diazepam composition contained in said coating, and

(d) inlet and exit portals through which air can be drawn through said device by inhalation,

wherein heating the substrate by activation of the power source is effective to form a diazepam vapor containing less than 5% diazepam degradation products, and drawing air through said chamber is effective to condense the diazepam vapor to form aerosol particles wherein the aerosol has an MMAD of less than 3 microns.

10. The kit according to claim 9, wherein the heat for heating the substrate is generated by an exothermic chemical reaction.

11. The kit according to claim 10, wherein said exothermic chemical reaction is oxidation of combustible materials.

12. The kit according to claim 9, wherein the heat for heating the substrate is generated by passage of current through an electrical resistance element.

13. The kit according to claim 8, wherein said substrate has a surface area dimensioned to accommodate a therapeutic dose of diazepam composition in said coating.

14. The kit according to claim 8, wherein a peak plasma concentration of diazepam obtained in less than 0.1 hours after delivery of condensation aerosol to the pulmonary system.

15. The kit of claim 8, further including instructions for use.